

# Sweet Wins Fight to Expose 5 Socialist Assemblymen; Eleven Rent Bills Passed and Signed by Governor

## Law Limits Increases to 25 Per Cent

Measures to Curb Profiteering Adopted in Both Houses of Legislature With Little Opposition

## Plan to Exempt Mortgages Beaten

Legislation Applies to New York, Rochester, Buffalo and Westchester

From a Staff Correspondent  
ALBANY, March 31.—Eleven of the twelve rent bills drafted by the special legislative housing committee to stop profiteering by New York landlords and real estate sharks will be laws in effect to-morrow. They passed the Senate this afternoon and the Assembly to-night, and immediately were signed by Governor Smith.

Legislative leaders had planned to have them in operation on April 1 to meet further monthly increases any landlords may have in mind. In order to pass the bills before midnight in the Assembly, Speaker Sweet halted the debate on the Socialists about 10 o'clock. No objection was made and the bills were put through quickly.

Governor Smith sent an emergency message with each bill, urging its passage. The bill not acted on was that to encourage investment in real estate by exempting from the state income tax the incomes from mortgages up to \$100,000. Opposition has developed in both houses.

### Three Important Provisions

The rent bills have three important provisions for protecting tenants from profiteering. They are:

Taking away from the landlord the right to summarily evict a tenant for non-payment of rent unless the rent is no greater than the amount paid for the preceding month or has not been increased more than 25 per cent within one year.

Providing that where a final order has been granted in a holdover proceeding the court may grant a stay not to exceed six months, which may be extended by the court if it appears a tenant cannot obtain suitable premises for himself and family. The tenant, however, must deposit with the court what is determined to be a fair rent.

Permitting a tenant in an action of law for recovery of rent to set up the defense that the rent is unjust.

These bills are designed to provide immediate relief for the millions of tenants in first class cities, particularly New York. Because of what legislators term the teeth in them, they have been fought by landlords and real estate interests as unbecomingly as Justice Spiegelberg, chairman of the Municipal Court Housing Committee of New York, in a recent defense of the bills declared that they were "not of their constitutionality." He declared that the power of summary proceedings was not in the constitution, but was placed in the statutes of the state more than 100 years ago. He said that the Legislature had granted in statutory law it can take away wholly or in part.

### Little Opposition to Bills

The bills met with little opposition in the Senate. Senators Burlingame, of Brooklyn, and Abeles, of the Bronx, were the only dissenting voices. Senator Burlingame said the bills would break off all the negotiations that have been going on for some time. He thinks the only reason they were allowed to pass in their present form is because of the approach of Election Day. He said that a solution of the housing problem could not be reached by harassing landlords or by telling them how much rent they must charge.

"You might as well pass a law," he said, "meeting organized labor to allow it to be conscripted for building work under penalty that they shall obtain no other work." Senator Abeles declared that the bills would break off all the negotiations that have been going on for some time. He thinks the only reason they were allowed to pass in their present form is because of the approach of Election Day. He said that a solution of the housing problem could not be reached by harassing landlords or by telling them how much rent they must charge.

## Ten of Mississippi's Delegates Go to Wood

JACKSON, Miss., March 31.—The State Republican committee to-day appointed ten district delegates to the Chicago convention, instructed for General Wood. Delegates at large will be named to-morrow by the state convention.

SALENA, Kan., March 31.—Four un-instructed delegates at-large to the Republican National Convention were elected by the state convention to-day. Resolutions adopted by the convention denounced governmental extravagance; urged more recognition of service men; praised the services of United States Senators Curtis and Capper; and endorsed Governor Henry Allen's administration.

## Bills to Curb Rent Profiteers Which Went Into Effect To-day

The eleven bills designed to curb rent profiteering, which last night became laws when Governor Smith signed them, provide that:

1. When a landlord seeks to eject a tenant on the plea that he is objectionable he must satisfy the court that the tenant actually is.
2. Where the agreement between landlord and tenant does not specify the length of the lease it shall hold until October 1 next.
3. The notice to vacate, now limited to twenty days, is extended to thirty.
4. In case of hold-over, where a landlord has defaulted on payment of taxes or other obligations, the tenant may deposit his rent with the clerk of the court or the presiding judge.
5. A judge called upon to determine whether or not a tenant shall be evicted is empowered to determine the amount of rent due and the money damages.
6. The law granting the landlord a double penalty where a tenant holds over without consent of a lessee or owner is repealed.
7. Pending a dispossession proceeding, a justice of the Municipal Court may grant a maximum stay of six months.
8. A code provision is created harmonizing the dispossession proceedings with the remedial legislation.
9. The same defenses allowed in summary proceedings may be set up in an action of ejectment.
10. Rent increases are limited to 25 per cent a year.
11. Willful failure on the part of a landlord to provide water, light, heat, power or whatever other services are contracted for in the lease shall constitute a misdemeanor.

## Strikers Will Tie Up Harbor Ferries To-day

Union Leaders Declare That Erie's Boats Will Stop Moving at 8 A. M. and That Others Will Follow

Ferryboats, tugs, lighters and every other kind of floating equipment of the Erie Railroad at this port will stop running at 8 o'clock this morning because of a strike of harbor workers.

The order for the walkout was given last night following a meeting of a committee of the Marine Workers' Association, the American Association of Masters, Mates and Pilots and the Railroad Port and Terminal Workers at 26 Park place. The union men objected to an alleged sale by the Erie system of several of its craft which involved the lengthening of their working hours and which they regarded as an opening wedge in an alleged attempt on the part of the railroads generally to deprive them of the eight-hour day.

Captain William A. Maher, head of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, said last night that unless an agreement was reached by the Erie system, the boats of the other railroad, the Erie, will be tied up to their slips and deserted by their crews. About forty other boats owned by the railroad will also be rendered idle.

Unless the railroad officials have been forewarned and have taken remedial measures all freight and passenger traffic via this line will be brought to a standstill, and the commuters and early morning freight carriers that usually pour into the Erie ferry houses from Jersey towns will be forced to use other railroad terminals.

It was said by officials of the Erie system this morning that an attempt will be made to run up to their slips and deserted by their crews. About forty other boats owned by the railroad will also be rendered idle.

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## Children Call Croker Unfit; Attack Wife

Former Tammany Chief-tain Declared Incompetent; Wife Is Accused of Undue Influence

## Plot to Alienate Affection Is Seen

Affidavit Charges She Has Control of Practically All of His Property

The two sons and the daughter of Richard Croker, former Tammany chief-tain, announced through counsel yesterday that they had obtained a temporary injunction in the Palm Beach County, Fla., court preventing transfer or disposal of their father's property in that state pending proceedings to have a conservator appointed to manage it.

Affidavits filed by Richard Croker jr., Howard Croker and Mrs. Ethel Croker White charge their father is not competent to manage his own affairs, that he is being unduly influenced by his present wife and that she is seeking to alienate him from his children "to further her own interests."

It is alleged the second Mrs. Croker has used her ascendancy over her aged husband to obtain control of his fortune, and it was announced that the application for an injunction was merely a preliminary to an attempt on the part of the former boss's children to have a committee of his property appointed.

An application to this end already has been made, it was said.

William F. McCombs, counsel for the Croker children, said the order on the injunction was obtained was returnable in the Palm Beach court next week. The Croker estate in Florida is valued at \$1,000,000. The former boss's total estate, real and personal, is in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000.

Mrs. Croker sr. is in Oklahoma Indian when he married in November, 1912, two months after the death of his first wife. He was then seventy-four years old.

Declared Dominated by Wife  
The action in Florida is based on an affidavit made by Mrs. Ethel White, of Cedarhurst, Long Island, who says she was Mr. Croker's favorite child until his second marriage. After that event, which took place within two months of their mother's death, and to which none of the Croker children were invited, all his children seemed to be regarded with equal disfavor by Mr. Croker, she says.

She declares her conviction that Mr. Croker is incompetent to handle his affairs because of the domination exercised over him by his second wife, who, she says, not only has alienated him from his children but has obtained control of his property.

In her affidavit she says that from the time of his marriage she never has seen her father except in the presence of his wife, who monopolized the conversation. In 1915 and subsequently, when she saw her father, she said, he appeared to be completely under his wife's influence and manifested no affection for his children. Her affidavit, in part, follows:

"From the time of his marriage, in 1914, he has never provided me with any money at any time, excepting a trifling allowance of income provided from the trust fund established in the lifetime of my mother.

"My share of the income from said fund allowed me by my father amounted to about \$1,600 or \$1,700 a year. At the latest date he attempted to take even this income away from me. His appearance at this time was quite different from that of the year 1914. He had his hair, which was previously white, dyed a light brown.

"I noticed in the newspapers in the early part of 1919 that my father was quite ill at Palm Beach. Upon reading the notice in question I went down to Palm Beach for the express purpose of seeing him.

"I went out to his home at Palm Beach and saw him in bed. Each time that I visited him his wife was with him.

(Continued on page eight)

## Senator Knox Seriously Ill in Washington Home

Specialists and Nurses in Constant Attendance and All Visitors Are Barred

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON, March 31.—United States Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, is seriously ill at his home, 1527 K Street, N. W. He is suffering from a complication of diseases, following a slight breakdown that occurred during the peace treaty fight in the Senate.

Senator Knox is under the care of specialists and trained nurses, it was stated to-night, and he is not allowed to see even his intimate friends or to transact any business. Representatives of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who called on the Knox residence with the peace resolution, were told that the Senator was too ill to take up any work at all.

Senator Knox was not in very good health during the treaty fight in the Senate, but he remained in Washington hoping from week to week to get away for a long vacation. He took to his bed the last week of the fight and left it only once, it was said to-day. That was on Friday, March 19, when the final vote was taken. He went to the Senate that day and cast his vote against ratification.

## 100 Cork Men Bomb Barracks

SKIBBEREEN, County Cork, Ireland, March 31.—More than one hundred armed men attacked the police barracks at Durrus, seven miles southwest of Bantry, County Cork, with rifles and petrol bombs last night. A portion of the building was blown up and two policemen were wounded, one seriously.

After a fierce fight, the raiders, some of whom are believed to have been wounded, were driven off.

## Lloyd George Attacks Senate For Aiding Irish

Erin Likened to South in '61; Carson Says Plot to Kill Him Made in U. S.; Home Rule Bill Advanced

By Frank Getty  
From The Tribune's European Bureau  
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LONDON, March 31.—By a majority of 254 the government's Irish Home Rule bill passed the second reading in the House of Commons to-day. The vote was 348 for the measure, 94 against. The bill now goes to the committee stage before the third and final reading and its appearance on the statute books.

The session was stormy and Premier Lloyd George was always the central figure of the debate. His defense of the bill was brief, but he put the full force of his dramatic powers into this reference to the United States:

"We want the people of America to know that Eamon de Valera is putting forward the same charges, in the same language, that once were used by Jefferson Davis. Some of those same men who voted in the Senate of the United States for the recent resolution for the independence of Ireland and have agitators who fought to the death against conceding to the South that very 'self-determination' they ask for Ireland. We claim nothing more for England than the United States claim for itself; we will stand for no less."

Carson Accuses Americans  
Another tense situation was created by Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster Unionist chief, when, in referring to the murders in Ireland, he exclaimed:

"If the various allegations which Dominick Henry has made against my countrymen, which are acceptable to no party or responsible body of opinion in Ireland, is to become law, the Home Rule Act of 1914 automatically will be superseded and the division of the Irish government and legislature be put in force."

(Continued on page three)

## Stutz Motor Deals Suspended; Shorts Trapped by Corner

The New York Stock Exchange for the first time in its history yesterday suspended dealings in a listed security. Because of a corner existing in the shares of the Stutz Motor Company the board of governors adopted a resolution forbidding its members from taking part in any transaction involving the sale or purchase of Stutz shares of the company.

This action was taken as the result of a searching investigation by the business conduct committee, which indicated that the Stutz Motor Company, of the Exchange and son of Thomas F. Ryan, owned or controlled 80,000 of the 100,000 outstanding shares of the Stutz company. Because of this centralized ownership it was held by the board of governors that the interests of a large number of people from all over the country who had sold the stock short could best be served by suspending further dealings in the shares until some arrangement had been made by which they could get stock for delivery without bidding for it in the open market.

Short Interest in Small Lots  
It was estimated by a governor of the exchange that the outstanding short interest in the stock totaled between 10,000 and 15,000 shares, of which the largest single short contract was 700 shares. The rest virtually all in lots under 100 shares. The governor denied the recent reports that a high official of an important steel company had sold 10,000 shares without having the actual stock to deliver. He said that one Stock Exchange firm with wire connections to a number of large Western and Southern cities had sold between 500 and 800 shares short for thirty different customers.

The main reason for the action of the governing committee in suspending dealings in this stock, said this governor, "is to protect the people who probably sold the stock short not knowing the real conditions regarding the ownership of the shares. These people were evidently acting in good faith and we see no reason why their interests should not be protected by preventing any further calls upon them for delivery of the stock."

Price Up 29 1/2 Points  
In answer to inquiries as to what would be the next step in the Stutz matter, the committee on business conduct of the exchange called Mr. Ryan to appear before it last week. It is understood that at that time he was warned that any further marking up of the stock might result in the committee taking summary action. This week, however, has witnessed a continuation of the advance in Stutz stock, which has carried the price since the first of the year up 29 1/2 points. At yesterday's closing quotation of 331, the gain over Tuesday's last sale was 21 points. The rise has been due largely to the inability of the shorts to get stock for delivery without bidding for it in the open market, and owing to the limited floating supply this has caused advances of as much as 10 and 15 points between sales.

It was announced last night that A. A. Ryan & Co. had caused an advertisement in the financial columns of a newspaper offering to purchase any shares of Stutz motor stock that may be offered for sale. This was done, it was said, to protect owners of the stock against the suspension ordered by the exchange.

Whether or not Stutz will be traded in on the curb market to-day, in view of the suspension of dealings on the "big board," was considered problematic last night.

## Exoneration For Smith Is Predicted

All Charges Brought by the Inspector Against Prosecutor Said to Have Collapsed Completely

## Grand Jury Report Is Expected To-day

Accuser of Swann Aid Spends Three More Hours on Witness Stand—Hurries Away at End

When the extraordinary grand jury investigating charges against Assistant District Attorneys James E. Smith, Edwin P. Kilroe and John T. Dooling adjourned late yesterday afternoon it was said unofficially at the Criminal Courts Building that the case which Inspector Dominick Henry has tried to build up against Smith had collapsed completely, and that the accused prosecutor would be given a clean bill of health to-day on all the counts against him.

The exoneration of Smith will leave the investigating body free to take up the specific charges against Kilroe and Dooling, which are the only matters that can legally come before it unless Governor Smith sees fit to extend its powers. The charges against Kilroe and Dooling are in no way related to those against Smith or to the vice conditions revealed by the latter.

Henry Quizzed Again  
That a perfunctory "whitewashing" by the Almiral jury will not satisfy Prosecutor Smith, whether it comes to-day or in the future, was plainly indicated by a statement he made to a Tribune reporter last night. Mr. Smith said:

"My reputation as a public official is at stake in this investigation, and I wish it to be definitely and publicly proved whether these charges against me are true or untrue. I want no half-measures."

If the various allegations which Dominick Henry has made against my countrymen, which are acceptable to no party or responsible body of opinion in Ireland, is to become law, the Home Rule Act of 1914 automatically will be superseded and the division of the Irish government and legislature be put in force."

(Continued on page eleven)

## Naval Budget of Britain Below U. S.

LONDON, March 31.—His attention being called in the House of Commons to-day to the American naval estimates, Walter Hume Long, First Lord of the Admiralty, entered into a detailed comparison. He showed that at the current rate of exchange, when \$23,000,000 (nominally \$115,000,000) for end-of-war expenditure was subtracted from the British estimates, the American estimates were \$44,000,000 (nominally \$220,000,000) in excess of the British.

Moreover, while the personnel of the British navy was being reduced, the American estimates provided for an increase in personnel.

## Suffrage Loses In Mississippi; Vote, 94 to 23

House Refuses to Ratify the Amendment Amid Upheaval of "Noes" as Democratic Leaders Plead in Vain

JACKSON, Miss., March 31.—The Mississippi House of Representatives to-day again refused to ratify the suffrage amendment by a vote of 94 to 23. The measure had passed the Senate yesterday.

The action was positive and regarded as final, a motion to disagree with the Senate's resolution favoring ratification having been carried. There was an uproar of "noes" on the floor when a demand was made that telegrams from Democratic leaders urging ratification be read. Speakers who sought to support ratification were booed and jeered.

Governor Russell, who had been expected to deliver a "little talk" to the House urging ratification, did not appear.

Many Telegrams Received  
Telegrams from Democratic leaders in all sections of the country were received to-day by Speaker Connor and House members urging that Mississippi, a Democratic state, enfranchise the women of the nation before the Republican Legislature of Delaware, where the question also is pending, could act.

One telegram received by Speaker Connor was from Dover, Del., signed by Governor Townsend, United States Senator Ball, Secretary of State Johnson and State Senator John M. Walker. It read:

"The telegram sent you yesterday by four anti-suffrage members of the Delaware Legislature represents the individual opinions, but they are absolutely without authority to speak as a committee from this Legislature. We expect Delaware to ratify the suffrage amendment and that it will be the thirty-sixth state to do so. We trust that Mississippi will be the thirty-seventh."

Senator S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, telegraphed Speaker Connor to do his utmost to secure immediate ratification.

Bryan Urges Ratification  
William J. Bryan asserted ratification "will greatly aid our campaign in the Western States."

Secretary Daniels telegraphed "a Southern Democrat, imbued with the principles of our party," urging the Legislature to "embrace the opportunity of having the honor of giving the deciding vote."

From a Staff Correspondent  
DOVER, Del., March 31.—Governor John G. Townsend jr. to-day offered up as a sacrifice to the suffrage cause his ambition to serve as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. Even this offer, however, could not shake the hostility of Daniel J. Layton, chairman of the Delaware State Republican Committee and Governor Townsend's rival for Chicago honors. Therefore, the expected vote on the suffrage amendment was again postponed this afternoon for lack of votes.

The anti-suffragists took matters into their own hands and will attempt to force a vote to-morrow. Assemblyman Lloyd introduced a duplicate suffrage bill, which will be brought up (Continued on page eight)

## 5 Children Found Dead In Tent With Throats Cut

Mother Slashes Herself and Is Expected to Die; Ax, Razor and Knife Used

ELK CITY, Okla., March 31.—With their heads crushed and their throats cut, five small children of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Cowart were found dead to-day in a tent in which they had been making a temporary home, three miles south of this town. The wife and mother lay beside the children, with her throat slashed. An ax, a razor and a butcher knife, all bloodstained, were found in the tent.

Screams of the children attracted a man plowing a field near by, but all the children were dead before he reached the tent and the mother had succeeded in slashing her own throat. She is not expected to live.

"Cranberries" make the most delicious spread for bread, toast or cake.—Adv.

## Fight Against Ouster Rages All Night

Unseated Legislators Give Up Hopes With Eighty-nine Votes Pledged to Stand by the Speaker

## Debate Is Marked By Wild Tumult

Roosevelt Leads Forces Opposed to Expulsion; Minority in Filibuster

From a Staff Correspondent  
ALBANY, April 1.—Although debate on excluding the five Socialist members of the Assembly, which began yesterday, was still under way at 3 o'clock this morning it was evident that Speaker Sweet had won his fight and that all five of the men would be unseated when the matter finally is brought to vote.

The debate was watched by two of the Socialists—Solomon and Waldman—who said their party long ago gave up hope of having its representatives reelected.

Their premonition of defeat was strengthened by reports of those who have canvassed the Assembly for Sweet. These say the Speaker has eighty-nine votes pledged for expulsion of all five men—fifteen more than he requires. There are ninety-two votes for ousting three—Clasens, Waldman and Solomon.

## Debate Amid Tumult

The debate, which began in tumult, and was filled for several hours with vociferous argument and many attacks on Assemblyman Cu-villier, degenerated into a long-distance talking match as the night wore on. It probably will be daylight by the time the matter comes to a vote.

The defense of the Socialists was led by Theodore Roosevelt, who made his first long speech in their behalf. Simon Adler, majority leader, who it was predicted also would speak against the exclusion of the five men, did not do so.

He urged the expulsion of Claessens, Waldman and Solomon and the reseat-ing of Orr and De Witt.

Speaker Sweet left the rostrum shortly before 2 o'clock this morning to defend his actions and attack Colonel Roosevelt.

"This day, while we are making legislative history," said Speaker Sweet, "we surely must feel with us the presence of that indomitable country lawyer, statesman, the late Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who in these chambers, only a few years ago, laid the foundation of his noble, self-sacrificing labors in the interest of the Republic he so dearly loved."

"Deep in the heart of every true American is a reverence for his words and a regard for his deeds given by every true American to only two other patriots and statesmen, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln."

## Chamber Birthplace of Ideals

"In these chambers Colonel Roosevelt laid the groundwork for his great Americanism. Here were matured the lofty ideals up to which he lived through his stormy life, which carried him to the pinnacle of every earthly honor. Here he unfolded his plans for better government and here he expressed those noble sentiments in the interest of all human government which served to guide him down the well-rounded years of his public life."

Speaker Sweet then quoted from the late Colonel Roosevelt's speeches on Americanism, and by his comments implied that the former President of the United States, if alive to-day, would applaud the ousting of the Socialists.

Sweet took issue with his fellows here who contended that the Socialist party was not on trial. He said it was. He said membership in the party was enough to warrant their expulsion.

Scenes more riotous than those which occurred at yesterday's hearing on the light wine and beer bill characterized the opening of the debate.

Assemblyman Louis A. Cu-villier, of Tammany Hall, started the trouble when he attempted to steam roller the Republicans and Democrats who wanted unlimited debate to prevail. Bitter attacks were made on the Speaker by the Democrats, who repeatedly attacked Cu-villier, one of Cu-villier's Tammany colleagues, Assemblyman Martin G. McCue, threatening to strike him on two occasions.

Cu-villier was howled down by his irate Tammany associates. "Such cries as 'Put him in a cage!' 'Sit down!' 'Shut up!' were frequently hurled at him."

Assemblyman Charles D. Donohue, leader of the Democrats, charged Speaker Sweet with having broken a promise made earlier in the day at a conference, where the Speaker gave assurance that there would be no limit placed on debate.

Get calls and derisive laughter came from those who wanted unlimited debate when Sweet insisted that debate would be limited to fifteen minutes. Resounding blows of the Speaker's gavel only served to intensify the anger of his opponents, and Cu-villier's attempts to assist Sweet only added to the uproar.

On one occasion, when Assemblyman